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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

This Preliminary Amendment is being submitted in connection with the above-identified §371 national stage application based on PCT International Application No. PCT/EP2004/014435, filed December 17, 2004, designating the United States and claiming priority of European Patent Application No. 03028968.0, filed December 17, 2003. Thirty (30) months from the priority date is June 17, 2006. Accordingly, this §371 national stage application and Preliminary Amendment are being timely filed.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

A new **Abstract of the Disclosure** is referred to on page 3 of this paper and attached hereto as **Exhibit A**.

A new **Sequence Listing** is referred to on page 4 of this paper and attached as **Exhibit 1** to the Statement attached hereto as **Exhibit B**.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 5 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.